

1 3. An electrical connector comprising:

2 a housing; and,

3 a rigid genderless electrical contact mounted within said housing, said rigid
4 genderless electrical contact having a longitudinal axis, a proximal end and distal
5 end, said distal end [having] terminating in a planar initial electrical contact
Q2 6 engaging surface portion with the plane thereof intersecting the longitudinal axis
7 at a predetermined angle and an arcuate final electrical contact engaging surface
8 portion, said initial and final electrical contact engaging surface portions being
9 positionally maintained within said housing to permit repeatable electrical
10 engagement with planar initial and arcuate final electrical contact engaging surface
11 portions, respectively, of a corresponding rigid genderless electrical contact.

1 5. The electrical connector of claim 3 further comprising:

2 a spring element mounted within said housing and bearing against said rigid
3 genderless electrical contact to spring load the rigid genderless electrical
4 contact.

1 6. The electrical connector of claim 3 wherein said rigid genderless electrical
Q3 2 contact includes an electrical conductor engaging element.

1 7. The electrical connector of claim 3 wherein said housing also is rigid
2 genderless so that the electrical connector can mate with another electrical
3 connector having a corresponding rigid genderless housing and a rigid genderless
4 electrical contact.

1 8. An electrical connector assembly comprising:

2 a first electrical connector comprising:

3 a housing; and,

4 a rigid genderless electrical contact mounted within said
5 housing, said rigid genderless electrical contact having a
6 longitudinal axis, a proximal end and distal end, said
7 distal end [having] terminating in a planar electrical
8 contact engaging surface portion with the plane thereof
9 intersecting the longitudinal axis at a predetermined
10 angle;

11 a second electrical connector comprising:

12 a housing; and,

13 a rigid genderless electrical contact mounted within said
14 housing, said rigid genderless electrical contact having a
15 longitudinal axis, a proximal end and distal end, said
16 distal end [having] terminating in a planar electrical
17 contact engaging surface portion with the plane thereof
18 intersecting the longitudinal axis at a predetermined
19 angle;

20 said first and second electrical connector rigid genderless electrical contacts
21 being electrically engagable with each other with the planes of the planar
22 electrical contact engaging surface portions intersecting the longitudinal axes at
23 substantially the same predetermined angle and with the planar electrical contact
24 engaging surface portions being positionally maintained within their respective
25 housings so that said planar electrical contact engaging surface portions are
26 substantially parallel at the moment of their electrical engagement thereby
27 permitting repeatable electrical engagement with minimal contact bounce thereof.

1 9. An electrical connector assembly comprising:

2 a first electrical connector comprising:

3 a housing; and,

4 a rigid genderless electrical contact mounted within said
5 housing, said rigid genderless electrical contact having a
6 longitudinal axis, a proximal end and distal end, said
7 distal end [having] terminating in a planar initial
8 electrical contact engaging surface portion with the plane
9 thereof intersecting the longitudinal axis at a
10 predetermined angle and an arcuate final electrical contact
11 engaging surface portion;

12 a second electrical connector comprising:

13 a housing; and,

14 a rigid genderless electrical contact mounted within said
15 housing, said rigid genderless electrical contact having a
16 longitudinal axis, a proximal end and distal end, said
17 distal end [having] terminating in a planar initial
18 electrical contact engaging surface portion with the plane
19 thereof intersecting the longitudinal axis at a
20 predetermined angle and an arcuate final electrical contact
21 engaging surface portion;

22 said first and second electrical connector rigid genderless electrical contacts
23 being electrically engagable with the planes of the planar initial electrical
24 contact engaging surface portions intersecting the longitudinal axes at
25 substantially the same predetermined angle and with the planar initial electrical
26 contact engaging surface portions being positionally maintained within their
27 respective housings so that said planar initial electrical contact engaging surface
28 portions are substantially parallel at the moment of their electrical engagement
29 thereby permitting repeatable electrical engagement with minimal contact bounce
30 thereof.

1 13. An electrical contact assembly of a plurality of rigid genderless electrical
2 contacts comprising:

3 an integrally formed, longitudinally extending rigid genderless
4 electrical contact having:

5 [having] a longitudinal axis, a proximal end, an
6 intermediate portion and a distal end, said distal end
7 [having] terminating in a planar electrical contact
8 engaging surface portion with the plane hereof intersecting
9 the longitudinal axis at a predetermined angle;

10 and,

11 web means for connecting at least two of said plurality of
12 electrical contacts together in spaced apart relation.

04 1 14. The electrical contact assembly of claim 13 wherein said web means connects
2 said at least two rigid genderless electrical contacts together at the intermediate
3 portions thereof.

1 15. The electrical contact assembly of claim 13 wherein said web means
2 is integrally formed with said at least two rigid genderless electrical connectors.

1 17. An electrical contact assembly of a plurality of rigid genderless
2 electrical contacts comprising:

3 an integrally formed, longitudinally extending rigid genderless electrical
4 contact having:

05 5 a longitudinal axis, a proximal end, an intermediate
6 portion and distal end, said distal end [having]
7 terminating in a planar initial electrical
8 contact engaging surface portion with the plane thereof
9 intersecting the longitudinal axis at a predetermined